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Letter dated 30 May 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have been instructed by my Government to lodge a strong protest over the heinous crime committed by ethnic Albanian terrorist separatists at Cernica, an ethnically mixed village in the United States KFOR area of responsibility in Kosovo and Metohija, the autonomous province of the Yugoslav constituent Republic of Serbia, on 28 May 2000. On that day at about 8 p.m. they opened automatic fire on a group of Serbs gathered in front of a shop in the Serbian part of the village, killing Tihomir Trifunovic, Vojin Vasic and 5-year-old Milos Petrovic, and wounding Zoran Stolic and Petko Jankovic. The latest crime comes in the train of a series of atrocities committed by ethnic Albanian terrorist separatists at Cernica and a string of other ethnically mixed or Serbian villages, such as Partes, Donja Budringa and Pasjane, since the deployment of the international presences in Kosovo and Metohija. They included mortar attacks, dynamiting of the Orthodox church, throwing of a hand grenade at a Serbian shop and the stoning and destruction of vehicles belonging to Serbs and passing through the ethnic Albanian part of Cernica.

The most recent crime committed before the eyes of the international presences, acting under United Nations auspices, in which also a 5-year-old boy lost his life, is yet another example of the failure of the Kosovo Force (KFOR) and the United Nations Interim Administration in Kosovo (UNMIK) to carry out their mandates and implement Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) of 10 June 1999, which provides for ensuring a secure environment to all residents of that Serbian province. The crime is also eloquent proof of the glaring failure of the international presences to ensure respect for human rights, such as freedom of movement and the most basic human right of all, the right to life, the most frequent victims of which have been Serbs and other non-Albanians.

Almost a year after their deployment, the international presences continue to turn a blind eye to the continued atrocities of ethnic Albanian terrorist separatists, accounting for the loss of life of many Serbs and other non-Albanians and for the destruction of all traces of the existence of Serbs in Kosovo and Metohija, the cradle of their State and civilization. In bringing this sorry state of affairs to your attention, I trust and believe that the Security Council will finally discard its passivity and take vigorous measures to implement Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) fully and consistently and thus put an end to the violence and modern-day vandalism of ethnic Albanian terrorist separatists, in the most recent instance of which an innocent child has also lost his life.

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I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Vladislav **Jovanovic**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.